Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4097
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CONFIDENTIAL NATO 05007

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, NATO

SUBJECT: PROPOSED PRESS RELEASE FOR AUTUMN FORGE 77

EXERCISE SERIES

- 1. INTERNATIONAL STAFF HAS CIRCULATED THE DRAFT OF A PROPOSED PRESS RELEASE ON "AUTUMN FORGE 77 EXERCISE SERIES" TO BE ISSUED JULY 1, 1977. SINCE THE "AUTUMN FORGE" SERIES OF EXERCISES IS RELEVANT TO CSCE, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE PROPOSES TO RAISE THE ISSUE AT THE JUNE 14 MEETING OF THE POLADS.
- 2. COMMENT: TEXT OF PROPOSED RELEASE SEEMS ANODYNE, WITH EXCEPTION OF FIRST SENTENCE, SECOND PARA, WHICH READS: "ALL NATO NATIONS WITH MILITARY FORCES COMMITTED TO THE DEFENCE OF THE WESTERN WORLD ARE SCHEDULED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAMME." IT WOULD LIKELY AVOID POSSIBLE WRANGLING AMONG ALLIES IF TEXT MORE CORRECTLY READ: "ALL NATIONS WITH MILITARY FORCES COMMITTED TO NATO ARE SCHEDULED...." END COMMENT.
- 3. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE FOR JUNE 14 POLADS MEETING.
- 4. BEGIN TEXT OF PROPOSED PRESS RELEASE: CONFIDENTIAL

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SHAPE - BELGIUM -- AUTUMN FORGE, THE NICKNAME FOR THE SERIES OF MILITARY EXERCISES CONDUCTED BY ALLIED COMMAND EUROPE (ACE) EACH YEAR WILL COMMENCE IN AUGUST.

ALL NATO NATIONS WITH MILITARY FORCES COMMITTED TO THE DEFENCE OF THE WESTERN WORLD ARE SCHEDULED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAMME. IT LINKS TOGETHER, UNDER A COMMON

SCENARIO, A NUMBER OF NATIONAL, MULTINATIONAL, AND NATO EXERCISES HELD THROUGHOUT EUROPE EACH AUTUMN. THERE ARE 31 EXERCISES PLANNED FOR THE SERIES THIS YEAR.

AUTUMN FORGE OBJECTIVES INCLUDE: TESTING AND REFINING THE CAPABILITY TO MOVE FORCES QUICKLY TO AREAS OF GREATEST NEED; EXPLORING WAYS TO IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION AND SUPPLY SYSTEMS BETWEEN COMMANDS AND NATIONS; AND IDENTIFYING AND EVALUATING AREAS FOR STANDARDISATION IN DOCTRINE, PROCEDURES, EQUIPMENT AND ARMAMENT OF NATO FORCES.

THESE OBJECTIVES ARE AN OUTGROWTH OF THE ACE-WIDE FORCE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME INSTITUTED LAST AUGUST BY THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER EUROPE (SACEUR), GENERAL ALEXANDER M. HAIG, JR. THAT PROGRAMME, AND THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S EXERCISE SERIES, IS CALLED "THE 3RS - READINESS, RATIONALISATION AND REINFORCEMENT." GENERAL HAIG BELIEVES THAT BY CONCENTRATING ON "THE 3RS" DURING THIS YEAR'S SERIES OF EXERCISES, NATO FORCES WILL BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT IN COMBAT READINESS.

SOME OF THE MAJOR EXERCISES IN THIS YEAR'S SERIES ARE COLD FIRE, A JOINT LAND/AIR EXERCISE IN THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN REGION; REFORGER 77, LAND/AIR EXERCISE IN WHICH US TROOPS AND EQUIPMENT EARMARKED FOR EUROPE ARE FLOWN TO GERMANY TO TRAIN WITH OTHER NATO FORCES; DISPLAY DETERMINATION, A SEA/LAND/AIR EXERCISE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA INVOLVING FORCES OF SOUTHERN REGION NATIONS, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES; AND ARROW EXPRESS, AN ACE CONFIDENTIAL

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MOBILE FORCE EXERCISE IN THE NORTHERN REGION. THE SERIES CULMINATED IN LATE AUTUMN WITH ABLE ARCHER, AN ACE-WIDE COMMAND POST EXERCISE.

THE RESULTS OF ALL OF THE AUTUMN FORGE EXERCISES ARE EVALUATED BY ALL MILITARY COMMANDERS AND STAFFS CONCERNED TO DETERMINE THE IMPROVEMENTS NECESSARY TO INSURE CONTINUED MILITARY READINESS IN THE CONTEXT OF NATO'S DETERRENT MISSION.

END TEXT. STREATOR

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Margaret P. Grafeld	Declassified/Released	US Department of State	EO Systematic Review	22 May 2009

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